



CARTER COURIER

APRIL 27, 2006

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Last week was very productive as I visited with my constituents throughout the 31st District. I had the opportunity to co-host a workshop that helped area students learn about the college admissions and student aid process, met with local police officers, and visited my CVS pharmacist to hear his experiences with implementing the Medicare Prescription Drug benefit.

I also met with local Hispanic leaders to listen to their concerns and suggestions for immigration reform. I was also fortunate enough to throw out the first pitch at the Round Rock Express home opener at the Dell Diamond. After hearing from my constituents, I am now back in our nation's Capitol tackling issues affecting our District.

Until next week,

FUELING OUR NATION'S ENERGY DEMANDS

by Congressman John R. Carter

Nowhere else in America do citizens depend on affordable fuel more than in Central Texas. The surging price of gasoline directly impacts the ability of our local industries to conduct business and our families to balance the monthly checkbook. The Department of Energy's (DOE) seasonal outlook projects the price for regular gasoline, throughout the summer, will average \$2.62 a gallon. This is a 25 cent increase over last summer, barring any unexpected supply disruptions. It is evident that something must be done.

Increased fuel prices are the result of several circumstances. First, gasoline blends change from winter to summer, which disrupts the supply chain. This summer, blends will contain an increased amount of ethanol, replacing MTBE which is more combustible. The Energy Information Agency estimates that the switch from MTBE to ethanol is responsible for about an additional 5 cents a gallon in cost. Additionally, already tight supplies mean that any refinery shutdown can drive up gasoline prices. Right now, 22 percent of Gulf Coast oil production is still off-line from the affects of Hurricane Katrina, so there are 340,438 fewer barrels of domestic oil available each day. Lastly, is our continued dependence on the Middle East for oil imports. As long as we depend on the Middle East for our energy needs, we are bound to conduct business, to an extent, on their terms.

Current law leaves nearly 100 billion barrels of oil untouched in Alaska and off our East and West coasts. Until this policy is changed, American families will continue to pay more

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than they should for gasoline. At a time when we import most of our crude oil, these restrictions also undermine the nation's security and prop up non-democratic governments.

Congress understands the threat of rising fuel costs on American business, small and large, and its impact on the American family. The House Resources Committee over the next two months has scheduled at least seven hearings on various aspects of fuel prices, including the impact of high prices on consumers and obstacles to increasing domestic energy supplies.

Additionally, the House Committee on Energy will examine refinery outages and how oil companies are investing their profits. Like many Americans, I believe red flags are waved when oil company executives receive \$400 million retirement packages in times of record prices. Price gouging will not be tolerated. Last fall, Congress unanimously passed an amendment to the FY2006 Appropriations bill for Commerce, Justice, Science programs (H.R. 2862) that would require an expedited study by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) into price gouging.

Congressional action is also being taken to provide funding for expedited research and development of alternative fuel sources. Currently, Congress is:

- Dedicating \$3.7 billion for fuel-cell research with a goal of putting low-emission hydrogen-powered cars on the road by 2020.
- Requiring 7.5 billion gallons of "renewable" fuel be available by 2012, primarily ethanol cooked out of corn, grass and agricultural waste.
- Supporting research to lengthen battery life and other technology for use in traditional and plug-in hybrid cars. In 10 years, some say, your 30-mile commute could be gasoline-free.
- Offering tax incentives to build new ethanol, hydrogen and other alternative fuel stations.

In the coming days, Congress will investigate oil company profits and look for short-term relief at the pump for all Americans. Curing the addiction to oil will be a long road, but while technology develops, we must be able to increase our refining capacity and look for new sources of oil to reduce short-term prices. Unfortunately, decades of neglect, concerning a coherent energy policy, cannot be changed in a day. Over that past year, America has been placed on the right path for energy independence. We must stay on this path and do all we can as a Congress to bring relief for all Americans.

CARTER APPLAUDS DECISION TO PLACE AVIATION MUSEUM IN GEORGETOWN

Earlier this month, the Texas Aviation History Museum announced that the Texas Aviation and Automotive Museum will be located at the City of Georgetown's Municipal Airport. I encouraged the group to name Georgetown as the site of the museum in July.

I am pleased that the Texas Aviation History Museum realized that the City of Georgetown will be a valuable partner in this endeavor. The City of Georgetown is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the cultural heritage of the community, and this museum is another opportunity to recognize the history of our great state. I am pleased to have the Texas Aviation and Automotive Museum in Williamson County and the 31st Congressional District, and look forward to seeing construction begin in the coming months.

REMINDER: COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Congressman Carter's staff will hold community office hours at the following times and locations. The staff will be able to meet with residents to listen to their concerns and provide assistance with regard to federal issues and federal agencies.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006

ROCKDALE

Rockdale City Hall -- Council Chamber Room
505 W. Cameron Ave.
Rockdale, TX, 76567
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006

CAMERON

Bea's Kitchen
101 E. Main Street
Cameron, TX 76520
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006

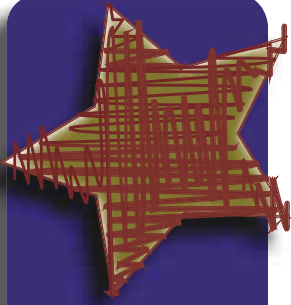
MARLIN

Marlin City Hall - Council Chambers
101 Fortune St.
Marlin TX 76661
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006

COPPERAS COVE

Chamber of Commerce – Conference Room
204 E. Robertson Ave.
Copperas Cove, TX, 76522
Time: 8:30am – 10:30am



Kids' Page

Match the Symbols

Can you match the word with the symbol? Print out this page and draw a line matching each symbol with its picture.

White House

Statue of Liberty

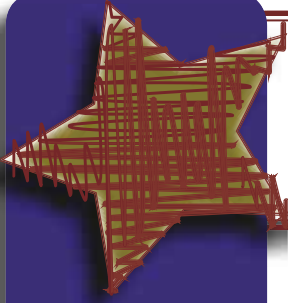
U.S. Flag

Independence Hall

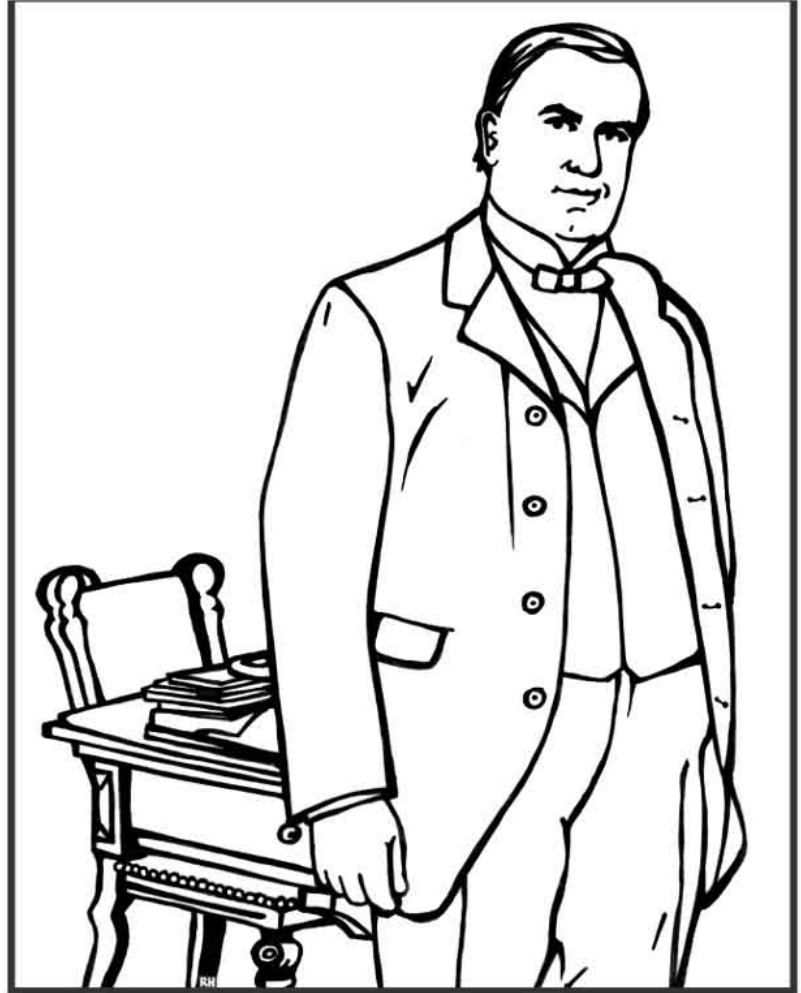
Liberty Bell

Bald Eagle





Color the President



William McKinley

Presidential Number: 25th

Years he was President: 1897-1901

State Represented: Ohio

Party Affiliation: Republican

Fact(s): He became the leading Republican tariff expert in Congress. He died in office.

Personal

Birthday: January 29, 1843

How old would he be this year? 163

School(s) attended: Allegheny College, Albany Law School

Wife: Ida McKinley

Occupation(s) before he was Presi-

dent: County prosecutor, Army Officer in the Civil War

Other way(s) he served: Governor of Ohio, Congress

Height: 5 feet, 7 inches

Hobbies or Sports: Riding, swimming, walking

Pets: Mexican yellow parrot, roosters

Life in America

How would he have traveled? Train

How would he have communicated with his friends? Telephone, typed letter, telegram

U.S. Population when term began: 75,994,575

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 45